



The Great Truck Bed (Un) Cover-up

So there you are, cruising down the highway. You and your buddies in the four-by-four, coming home from the lake. Excellent tunes on the radio, great weather and lots of cans of hyper-caFFEinated energy drinks. Except you don't have a trash bag in your truck to stash the empties, so you fling the cans into the truck bed. The perfect mobile garbage can, right? **Wrong!**

The sad truth is that truck-bed trash usually ends up airborne. And the resulting debris not only compounds Arizona's serious litter problem, but it also creates driving hazards that blind other motorists. In a two-year period, five people were killed on Arizona roads as a result of airborne litter. Nationwide, 25,000 accidents occur each year from debris.

Even if you don't use your truck-bed as a trash can, you may be littering inadvertently. Bumps and turns can send any item, no matter how heavy, flying onto roadways. Unsecured landscape trimmings can become dangerous projectiles if they hit the windshield of the driver behind you.

Here's some ideas from **DON'T TRASH AZ**:

- Buy a truck-bed cover. Besides eliminating a primary litter source, truck bed covers increase fuel economy and discourage theft.
- Latch a covered five-gallon bucket securely to your truck bed for those times when you need to store trash.
- If you have an extended cab, place a wastebasket behind the seat.

As always, if you see someone littering, call the Litter Hotline at 1-877-3LITTER .

This monthly **DON'T TRASH AZ** message is brought to you by the Office of Governor Janet Napolitano and the Arizona Department of Transportation.